

## CERTAIN LANDS IN CALIFORNIA FOR THE RELIEF OF HOMELESS INDIANS

FEBRUARY 6, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the  
state of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. HAYDEN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the  
following

### REPORT

[To accompany S. 4015]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4015) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to sell to the city of Los Angeles certain lands in California heretofore purchased by the Government for the relief of homeless Indians, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment

The Secretary of the Interior has recommended this legislation, and the facts are fully set forth in the letter from him under date of January 19, 1925, which is attached hereto and made a part of this report, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, January 19, 1925.

HON. JOHN W. HARRELD,  
*Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs, United States Senate.*

MY DEAR SENATOR HARRELD: Attention is invited to a proposition by the city of Los Angeles to purchase two certain tracts of land in Inyo County, Calif., which tracts were heretofore purchased by the Government for the relief of homeless Indians.

As of date of July 8, 1922, two deeds were executed by the Owens Valley Improvement Co. in favor of the United States of America covering the two separate tracts of land referred to in the preceding paragraph. The lands are described as follows:

Lot No. 55 of the Owens Valley Improvement Co.'s subdivision No. 1, as shown on a map filed in book No. 1, page 41, of the map records of Inyo County, containing approximately 16.61 acres, and the northerly 429 feet of lot 141 of the Owens Valley Improvement Co.'s subdivision No. 2 as shown on a map filed in book No. 1, page 42, of the map records of Inyo County, containing approximately 13 acres.

These two tracts of land were purchased by the Government at a total cost of \$4,441.50 under authority of the act of Congress of March 3, 1921 (41 Stat. L. 1225). The Government has subsequently expended the additional sum of

\$1,060.75 in constructing concrete irrigation ditches on the lands for conserving the water. The superintendent of the Bishop Indian School, who has jurisdiction over the property, reports that the city of Los Angeles has recently purchased the other lands surrounding these tracts with a view to controlling the water courses of that entire vicinity. He further advises that, owing to the existing conditions, no Indians have as yet been located on either of the tracts; consequently the trouble and expense of a removal would not be encountered if the lands should be sold. He also states his opinion that it will now be impracticable to successfully maintain an Indian colony there with the surrounding territory included in the city water reserve and abandoned by other industries.

In a letter to the superintendent of the Bishop School dated August 11, 1924, the right of way and land agent for the city of Los Angeles requests that these lands be offered for sale to the city for use in connection with their public-water system. The following is a quotation from his letter:

"I beg to advise you that I think it advisable that the city purchase the property, as we would like to buy all the property of which the Manzanar district consists, as well as the adjoining property, and will be willing to pay the price that we have paid for similar lands adjoining \* \* \*."

The superintendent suggests the advisability of offering the lands for sale with a view to using the proceeds in purchasing another tract for the relief of homeless Indians we had contemplated locating thereon. It will be necessary to segregate from the proceeds the sum of \$1,060.75, which is the amount expended for irrigation improvements, and to deposit that amount in the Treasury to the credit of the reimbursable appropriation by the act of May 24, 1922 (42 Stat. L. 560), which provides for irrigation work on miscellaneous projects in district No. 4.

There is, therefore, submitted herewith the draft of a proposed bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to negotiate the sale of these lands to the city of Los Angeles for such consideration as may be agreed upon, provided the total amount received therefor shall not be less than the original cost to the Government of the lands and the improvements, and the favorable consideration thereof is respectfully recommended to your committee. The Bureau of the Budget has reported that the proposed legislation will not be in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Very truly yours,

HUBERT WORK.

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